

URBAN DISTRICT
OF BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1968)

Chairman	-	Councillor S. T. Fisher
Vice-Chairman	-	Councillor A. R. Drury
Councillor J. W. Bluff		Councillor Mrs D. M. B. Kennington
Councillor F. Brothwell,		Councillor R. Raben, J.P.
Councillor S. J. Clarke, J.P.		Councillor W. B. Revill,
Councillor F. Cross		Councillor J. Spray.
Councillor T. Fulleylove		Councillor W. A. Taylor.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. M. J. CASH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
'Dale Close', 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Telephone : Mansfield 27561).

Deputy Medical Officer (Part time)

Dr. J. W. DENT, M.B., C.H.B.,
'Brown Dike', Welbeck Road, Bolsover.

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Council Offices, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover
(Tel.: Bolsover 3255/6)

Tehchnical Assistant : T. A. BORE.

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health : Miss P. M. WILSON.

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

This is the first annual report I have had the honour to present to you. As I was with you for only one month of 1968 I am unable to make a first hand comment on the year's work as a whole but I hope that the report will be of interest.

When I started my work with you I was concerned about the infant mortality which last year was rather high. I am very pleased that this year we are below the national figure. I am sure the general practitioners in the town will be glad of this for I know they take a pride in the high standard of ante-natal and obstetric care that they give.

I must thank you all for welcoming me to the town and I would like also to thank the officers for the co-operation and friendliness extended to me. I look forward to being of service to you in the future.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. CASH,

Medical Officer of Health.

'Dale Close',
100 Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	4,526
Population (Census 1961)	11,770
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1968	11,840
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968)	3,768
Rateable value (end of 1968)	£418,206
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1968	£1,697

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	173	100	73
Rate per 1,000 population ...	14.6		
Illegitimate Live Births	8	3	5
(Per cent of total live births) ...	4.5.		
Stillbirths	3	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ...	17.0.		
Total live and still births	176	102	74
Infant Deaths			
(deaths under one year)	3	2	1
Infant Mortality Rates :—			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)			11.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			5.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)			23
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Our figures and the national ones are as follows :—

	Bolsover	England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	17	18 (Provisional)
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	11	12.3
Peri-natal Mortality rate	23	25 (Provisional)

Births

I am pleased to say that the vital statistics for 1968 show a marked improvement on last year and are all better than the national figures. There were 3 infant deaths compared with 7 last year. The total births have risen from 166 to 173. There is also a slight reduction in stillbirths. Again, I am glad to say there have been no maternal deaths.

These birth statistics, particularly infant mortality, are very often indicative of the living conditions in the area and I feel that our statistics for this year are creditable.

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
122	75	47

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 10.3 (uncorrected) while the national death rate was 11.9.

There were 10 more deaths in 1968 than in 1967 and predominantly more male than female. Deaths from cancer of all types show little change but there is a fairly sharp rise in deaths from coronary heart disease. This is now a major killing disease especially in the middle-aged. Deaths from accidents were much the same as last year and I am glad to report that there were no suicides.

Summary of causes of death :—

	Male	Female	Total
Coronary heart disease	19	11	30
Circulatory disease	16	11	27
Cancer	14	6	20
Lung conditions	8	9	17
Accidents	5	5	10
Heart disease	6	3	9
Miscellaneous	7	2	9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics

These are provided by the Derbyshire County Council

Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities

1. **Analytical** — provided by the County Council.
2. **Bacteriological** — provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Chest Clinics

Sheffield Regional Hospital Board provide such a clinic in Chesterfield, another is held at the Victoria Hospital, Worksop (Watson Road Clinic) and Mansfield hold one at Kings Mill Hospital.

Venereal Disease

Treatment and advice can be obtained at Derby Royal Infirmary, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Victoria Hospital Worksop, and Mansfield and District General Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water'

The water supply to the Urban District of Bolsover is provided by the North Derbyshire Water Board. This supply has been sufficient in quality and quantity throughout the year. The Engineer and Manager to the Board has very kindly sent me the following report. I would like to thank him for this and also for his co-operation throughout the year.

- A. 1 The area is supplied predominantly from the Board's Works at Bolsover Moor where treatment comprises base exchange softening and chlorination, and supplemented by a Bulk Supply from Central Notts Water Board. The resultant quality of supplied waters is bacteriologically satisfactory.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out in the Board's laboratories. All raw, treated and distributed waters are examined at least monthly. The number of examinations involved in 1968 being:

Bacteriological	167
Chemical	167

- 2 The quantity proved adequate for all household purposes.

Before being brought into service all new mains were washed out and disinfected and samples taken to confirm the efficiency of the operation. No other action was necessary in respect of post treatment contamination.

- C. Chemical results vary with location due to the fact that two supply systems are involved and approximate ranges of characteristics are as follows :—

pH	7.4 - 8.2
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	90 - 260 mg/l.
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	150 - 180 mg/l.
Chloride (Cl)	40 - 130 mg/l.
Fluoride (F)	0.1 mg/l.

- D. The treated waters in the area have given rise to no concern on the grounds of plumbo solvency and analyses on the supply waters at source, in distribution and after overnight contact with lead service pipes have yielded figures within the recently revised acceptable lead concentration.

All the houses in the Urban District are supplied with mains water direct to the houses. There is no fluoridation of the water supply at present. There was no contamination reported in 1968.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I have to thank the Surveyor for the following notes

Subsequent to the Ministry enquiry held in the first week of January and referred to in the last letter, the Ministry's Inspector considered the evidence given at the inquiry and a meeting was arranged in London to discuss the matter further. This was attended by the Chairman of Highways and Planning, who is responsible for sewage disposal, the Engineer and Surveyor and the Council's Consulting Engineers. The Ministry Officers indicated that they were very concerned about possible mining subsidence in the area of the main Bolsover Sewage Disposal Works. They considered that an alternative method of treatment in the form of a bio-aeration process should be investigated. Their reasons for asking for this alternative scheme were that the units are smaller in area and are considered less likely to be affected by movement. The Consulting Engineers have now prepared this alternative scheme and it has been submitted, together with an estimate, informally to the Ministry for their observations.

Unfortunately three factors militate against the adoption of a bio-aeration scheme. These are as follows:—

1. Higher installation costs.
2. Higher running costs.
3. The Rivers Board have indicated that they will require the retention of three large 60 foot filters to deal with nitrates which are found in the effluent of a bio-aeration plant. These existing filters are already broken and tilted by subsidence from previous seams.

We have not yet received the Ministry's reaction to the scheme and estimate submitted. Meanwhile, by means of various improvisations we continue to achieve a passable effluent.

HOUSING

The Council did not build any houses in 1968 but 26 privately owned houses were erected. There were no conversions made during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk, Meat and Other Foods

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods will be found in the Public Health Inspector's report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948-1951

No action was taken during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The Ministry has requested information about the above. There is no common lodging house in the Bolsover Urban District.

FACTORIES ACTS

There are 30 factories registered in Bolsover Urban District which are inspected from time to time, and action taken as it is necessary. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

1. **Inspections** for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	61	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec- 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	6	16	1
Total	30	80	3

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Total	3	3	—	1

3. Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	
Lace, lace curtains and nets	2	—	—

Cases of Infectious disease notified during the year 1968

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified.									
	At Ages—years									
	Total	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25 upwards
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	24	..	..	2	2	2	17	1	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
do. (Non-Paralytic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	187	7	16	20	24	24	94	2	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Para-Typhoid Fever	4	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Gastro Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Infective Jaundice	9	..	..	..	1	1	3	2	1	1
TOTAL	229	8	16	22	27	27	117	6	2	4

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

I am pleased to report that there were no deaths from infectious disease in 1968.

Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year and mothers continued to have their children immunised satisfactorily.

Measles

There was a large measles epidemic during 1968—187 cases being reported. In 1967 there were very few cases and we hope that there will be few in 1969 and even fewer after this. Measles epidemics normally occur every two years. Now there is an effective vaccine against measles for which there has been considerable demand, we hope for even fewer cases in future.

Poliomyelitis

There was one case of this crippling disease reported in the summer. It was a child who was visiting this area and she was ill when she arrived. Although the disease was diagnosed in this area, it is certain it was contracted in the area from which the child came. All possible precautions were taken against spread and no further case was reported.

There were only four cases of whooping cough this year and 24 cases of scarlet fever which were extremely mild. Infective jaundice, which is now notifiable, revealed 9 cases in the area. This is a virus disease which seems to be increasing. Again there was no case of food poisoning.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

There were four cases notified for 1968, three in older people, one in a young adult. This disease is by no means what it was owing to modern drugs and the outlook for these patients is a great deal brighter than it was twenty years ago.

Immunisation

Immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles and poliomyelitis was carried out throughout the year, both by the clinic and by private practitioners in the town. There were 183 primary immunisations and 149 booster doses given in the year.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the year 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1968.

During the year, 26 new houses were built in the Urban District, one more than in the previous year, and on this occasion all were for owner occupation. At the present time there is a greater interest in private development and at the end of 1968 a further 57 houses were in course of erection. The Council are also preparing a scheme to erect about forty smaller homes on land at Hill Top, quite close to the town centre, and this scheme should prove most attractive to older tenants.

The Government produced their White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" designed to secure more thorough repair and improvement of many of the older houses and to produce a more satisfactory system of "area improvement". The overall shortage of houses is not now

so acute and the main problem is to bring the better older houses up to modern standards, both internally and environmentally, and to clear away those poor houses which are either unfit or quite unsuitable for improvement. These proposals were considered by the Council and preliminary discussions took place on the possibility of implementing an ambitious improvement scheme for over 80 houses in Bentinck Road, Shuttlewood.

In 1968 a record number of applications for improvement grants were approved by the Council and at the end of the year the total number of approvals had reached the 700 mark. The majority of the suitable older houses have now been improved but it is hoped that the new provisions and more generous grants which are expected to come into operation later in 1969 will have the effect of encouraging the repair and modernisation of rented houses in greater numbers.

There was a further fall in the number of animals passing through the three small slaughterhouses in this area, partly resulting from the after effects of the foot and mouth disease outbreak and partly from the difficulties the local butchers experienced in obtaining the services of part-time slaughtermen.

No further progress was made on implementing the Council's domestic smoke control programme and during 1968 the new Clean Air Act introduced wide powers for the Minister of Housing and Local Government to require local authorities to prepare and implement orderly programmes for the creation of smoke control areas.

Incentive payment schemes giving the workmen employed on the collection and disposal of refuse and on waste paper salvage were in operation most of the year and had the effect of producing a more contented and

suitable labour force without any reduction in the quality of the service and with the added bonus of a very slight saving on wages costs.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Table showing inspections, etc., undertaken
during the year 1968

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects	...	343
Revisits to houses	... ..	401
Visits in connection with improvement of houses	...	204
Visits re water supply	... ..	9
Visits to infectious disease cases	... ..	83
Milk Distributors and Dairies	... ..	27
Slaughterhouses—Meat Inspection	... ..	224
Butchers Shops	... ..	43
Bakehouses	... ..	4
Fried Fish Shops	... ..	8
Other Food Preparing Premises	... ..	76
Food Shops	... ..	120
Market Stalls	... ..	172
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	73
Inns and other Public Buildings	... ..	9
Factories and Workplaces	... ..	80
Knacker's Yard	... ..	14
Schools	... ..	9
Controlled Refuse Tips	... ..	71
Colliery Spoil Banks	... ..	9
Clean Air Act — Smoke Observations	... ..	8
Clean Air Act — Smoke Control Areas	... ..	54
re Atmospheric Pollution	... ..	13
Moveable Dwellings	... ..	18
re Keeping of Animals	... ..	15
Shops Act	... ..	12
Petroleum Licensing	... ..	57
Drainage Works	... ..	124
to Public Baths	... ..	19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	... ..	76
Interviews with owners, contractors, etc.	... ..	186

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT DEFECTS

The following table shows the defects remedied as a result of action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Defects in connection with :—

House Roofs	...	...	...	...	38
Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	9
Eaves, gutters and rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	44
Pointing and brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	29
Yard paving	...	...	...	...	14
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	19
Internal wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	116
Window and sash cords	...	...	...	...	29
Doors	...	...	...	...	6
Floors	...	...	...	...	21
Staircases	...	...	...	...	3
Cooking ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	...	19
Sinks	...	...	...	...	10
Rising or penetrating dampness	...	...	...	...	59
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	16
Drains and inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	81
Water closet pedestals	...	...	...	...	20
Closet flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	19
Wells and fences	...	...	...	...	5
Dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	96

In connection with the foregoing defects 173 informal notices and six statutory notices were served.

HOUSING

Reports for recent years have emphasised the importance that an adequate supply of good housing can have in protecting and promoting the good health and happiness of the inhabitants of any area. This objective involves the erection of houses and bungalows for letting; the erection of a reasonable variety of houses and bungalows for owner occupation and the repair and improvement of suitable older houses which are capable of providing a higher degree of comfort. In addition, those houses which are no longer capable of providing satisfactory accommodation should be removed and replaced as quickly as possible. We shall never reach Utopia because living standards are rising at an increasing rate and what was looked upon as luxury very soon becomes a necessity, but the greater the progress, the greater the improvement in the health and happiness of the inhabitants.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

During 1968, a total of 26 new houses were erected in the Urban District, this being one more than in the previous year and on this occasion all 26 were for owner occupation. This is not a particularly good achievement in a year when new record levels of house building were being created throughout the country, but there are now indications of better results to come. At the beginning of 1968 there were 23 houses under construction and at the end of the year this figure had increased to 57; all these were by private developers and at the present time there seems to be greater interest in private development than at any time since the end of the war. The Council built no houses during 1968 but during the year they engaged Architects to prepare a scheme for the erection of about forty dwellings at a site on Hill Top close to the

centre of the town. This proposed development is expected to contain small flats and bungalows for two or three or four person families, and it should prove particularly attractive to older persons.

At the end of the year the number of houses in the Urban District had risen to 3,768, and of that total 1,364 have been built since the war—834 erected by the Council 256 by the Coal Industry Housing Association and 274 for private ownership.

REMOVAL OF UNFIT HOUSES

In past years the Council's slum clearance programme made the greatest progress when new houses were being erected to provide alternative accommodation for families who were having to vacate their old homes. During recent years the removal of unfit houses has been much reduced but in 1968 the Council agreed to implement a further stage of the clearance programme, utilising Council house re-lets for rehousing of families displaced from unfit houses. In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of Council houses becoming vacant by normal population movement, the number now having reached fifty or so a year compared with about twenty or thirty not long ago.

At the beginning of 1968 there remained 55 houses on the current slum clearance programme drawn up in 1961 and the Council agreed to the 24 houses at Orchard Row, Carr Vale, being dealt with as a clearance area.

Orchard Row Clearance Area

An official representation in respect of the 24 houses numbered 1—47 (odd numbers only) Orchard Row, Carr Vale, was submitted to the Council in July, 1968. A Clearance Order in respect of the 24 houses was made by the Council on the 24th September, 1968 and was subsequently confirmed without modification by the Minister of

Housing and Local Government on the 31st October, 1968. The Clearance Order came into operation during the last week of December, 1968, and one family of six persons was rehoused before the end of the year. Rehousing of the remaining families is now proceeding satisfactorily and there is every reason to believe that all the families will be offered alternative accommodation within the period of twelve months as provided in the Clearance Order.

The Council were subsequently directed to make well-maintained payments in respect of 14 of the 24 houses in the Orchard Row Clearance Area.

Woodhouse Road Clearance Area

By the end of 1967 all the 11 houses in this Clearance Area had been vacated and during 1968 the buildings were demolished and the site cleared.

Bolsover Road, Shuttlewood, Clearance Area

At the end of 1967 all the four houses in this Clearance Area had been vacated and during 1968 the buildings were demolished and the site cleared.

Individual Unfit Houses

In 1968 no action in respect of individual unfit houses was taken.

At the end of 1968 there remained 31 houses on the present slum clearance programme where no action had been taken and I am hopeful that this total can now be progressively reduced during the next few years. In addition to the houses remaining in the programme there are known to be 15 other houses which need to be carefully examined in the not too distant future. There are also some 230 houses which do not readily lend themselves to being improved to a higher standard and there

is a possibility that these houses will have to be dealt with under slum clearance powers in years to come. It is possible that really ambitious improvement proposals could save many of these houses from demolition but some of them will inevitably form the slums of the future. They may not be 'unfit by present standards, but as the number of unfit houses in the country is steadily reduced the question of reviewing and raising the standard of unfitness will arise, and this will have a marked effect on the number of houses remaining to be dealt with under slum clearance powers and the number of new houses which will be required as alternative accommodation. It demonstrates that the drive to secure better housing conditions is a continuing problem which will increase the demand for new houses.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During 1968, 38 privately owned houses were improved under the standard grants scheme, of which 18 were owner occupied and 20 were tenanted houses. This is less than the number improved during the previous year but for the fourth consecutive year the number of rented houses improved exceeded the owner occupied.

The total amount paid in grants was £5,100, an average of almost £135 per house. The amenities provided included 37 inside water closets, 19 complete hot water systems, 31 wash hand basins, 23 baths and 20 ventilated food stores. In 16 cases the works involved the extension of the house or the conversion of outbuildings to provide new bathrooms.

The following table shows the number of privately owned houses in the Urban District which have been improved under the grant scheme,

	Owner-Occupied Houses	Tenanted Houses	Total Houses Improved
1954	3	—	3
1955	25	40	65
1956	23	6	29
1957	15	4	19
1958	19	6	25
1959	32	—	32
1960 (Standard Grants)	15	—	
(Discretionary Grants)	3	6	24
1961 (Standard Grants)	15	1	
(Discretionary Grants)	6	1	23
1962 (Standard Grants)	27	22	
(Discretionary Grants)	4	8	61
1963 (Standard Grants)	40	20	
(Discretionary Grants)	1	—	61
1964 (Standard Grants)	22	9	
(Discretionary Grants)	2	1	34
1965 (Standard Grants)	19	26	
(Discretionary Grants)	1	13	59
1966 (Standard Grants)	11	14	
(Discretionary Grants)	1	—	26
1967 (Standard Grants)	28	29	57
1968 (Standard Grants)	18	20	38
	330	226	556

During the year a record number of applications for discretionary and standard grants were approved by the Council, this resulting from the decision of the National Coal Board to thoroughly repair and improve the "Model Village" houses at New Bolsover. The modernisation of the 194 houses is to be undertaken in two stages, during 1968 applications were approved for 110 of the houses and the remaining 84 dwellings are expected to be improved immediately following the completion of the first stage. In all, a total of 115 applications for discretionary grants and 49 applications for standard grants were approved during 1968 and at the end of the year there were 145 cases where the works of improvement had not been completed. If the execution of the works can be achieved without undue delay, reports for the next two or three years should show a significant increase in the number of houses improved and the number of rented houses modernised should be considerably in excess of owner occupied properties.

The number of applications for improvement grants has now reached 700 and it is estimated that about 420 suitable houses remain to be dealt with—quite a number of these being deficient only of an inside water closet and in some cases a wash hand basin. We have now reached the position where there are several streets in which practically all the suitable houses have been improved and where those few remaining are tenanted houses owned by elderly persons without the necessary capital to undertake modernisation schemes. When the offer of loans proved unacceptable, the Council undertook to enter into negotiations with several owners to acquire their interest in the properties, but unfortunately no further progress in this direction was made during 1968.

It is now generally accepted that the basic amenities of hot water and indoor sanitation are no longer a luxury, they are regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life and should be available to all. The great majority of the older houses in this country must remain

in use for many years to come and every effort should therefore be made to provide suitable older houses with modern amenities where occupants can live in greater comfort. A large proportion of these older houses are occupied by middle aged and elderly people who have little prospect of being offered the tenancy of modern Council houses. The comfort and welfare of these families has become an increasingly urgent problem, as generally speaking, the houses they occupy are of a lower standard than those offered to tenants of Council houses or of owner occupied houses throughout the country. Following the publication of the report of the Denington Committee "Our Older Homes—a Call for Action" the Government issued in April, 1968, a White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes", which sets out the steps to be taken to secure an increase in the clearance of unfit houses, and in the repair and modernisation of older houses, with new emphasis on environmental improvement. At the time of preparing this report a Housing Bill embodying these proposals is before Parliament and it is hoped that the provisions will, in the not too distant future, give the desired impetus to repair and improvement of areas of suitable older houses. The concept of improving the whole area as distinct from simply making the houses more comfortable inside is particularly welcome. In this district we have made a lot of progress in providing a bathroom inside houses and making them generally more comfortable to live in, but the result of this effort is not so noticeable from outside the houses and in many cases the clutter of outbuildings, sheds and garages and unsatisfactory rear access roads and paths distracts from the general appearance of the areas. It is hoped that this aspect of improvement and modernisation will receive increased attention when "area improvement" schemes are prepared in the future. The Housing Bill contains provisions to raise the limits for discretionary and standard grants and to introduce a new rent policy for improved houses. It is hoped that on this occasion landlords will find these provisions sufficiently attractive to undertake the improvement of rented houses. This is not the first time

that adjustments are being made to grants, conditions or rent limits and in typically British fashion the landlord who, up till now, has been reluctant to consider improvement of his tenanted houses while awaiting the inevitably more attractive bait, would appear to be receiving greater encouragement than the public spirited landlord who improved his tenanted houses when the grant schemes were first introduced. We have in this district one or two landlords who modernised their rented houses before the introduction of the 1957 Rent Act and were most annoyed to find that the rents of unimproved houses could be raised virtually to the level of an improved house. Fortunately the new Housing Bill would appear to contain provisions to correct this anomaly.

In recent years the Council have undertaken the improvement of a number of houses they own and in 1968 works were completed on a block of four houses adjacent to the Council Offices, which were acquired a short time ago. The total so far dealt with has reached 83 and work is now starting on a further scheme to modernise 45 pre-war Council houses at Shuttlewood.

HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

The total number of Council owned ground floor flats, bungalows and smaller houses suitable for older persons now stands at 189.

The proportion of elderly persons in the community grows year by year and there continues to be a considerable demand for Council bungalows. The proposal to develop a site on Hill Top to provide approximately forty bungalows and flats should produce a welcome addition to the number of dwellings suitable for occupation by older persons.

Rent Act, 1957 — Certificates of Disrepair

During the year one application for a certificate of disrepair was received and the owner of the house subsequently gave an undertaking to carry out the necessary repairs.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

The Council's Municipal site was closed down in the previous year and is now being developed for light industry.

At the beginning of the year there were five separate licensed sites each containing one caravan and these continued in occupation throughout the year. A temporary town planning consent in respect of a sixth individual site was granted at the end of 1967 and a licence for this site off Elmtun Lane was granted early in the year to expire on the 31st December, 1968.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection

Particulars will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health of the number of cases of infectious diseases during the year and 83 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred or to contacts of infectious cases. Most of these visits were made in August, 1968, following a case of poliomyelitis. A 12 year old girl came with her older sister and younger brother from Shropshire to stay with their grandparents in this district and the day after arrival here she was removed to hospital and subsequently diagnosed as suffering from paralytic poliomyelitis. None of the family had been immunised and fortunately no subsequent cases developed.

Terminal disinfection is no longer carried out, but disinfectant is available free of charge.

Verminous Premises

There was again no evidence of bed bug infestation, though a number of houses experienced trouble from cockroaches and control measures were carried out. Suitable powder and liquid insecticides are available free of charge to affected properties.

In several cases control measures against cockroaches were taken at the time particular houses were being repaired and improved under the standard grant scheme and this treatment proved to be most effective.

Water Supply

Every house in the District is supplied with water from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board. Five samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported as being suitable for drinking purposes.

FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The number of premises in the Urban District subject to the provisions of these regulations is set out below :—

Bakehouses	1
Licensed Clubs carrying out catering	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Manufacturers of Sausages, etc.	9
Fish and Chip Shops	4
Predominantly Grocers Shops	44
Predominantly Greengrocers Shops	4
Shops selling mainly Sugar Confectionery	8
Shops selling mainly Flour Confectionery	3
Dispensing Chemists	2
Butchers Shops	10

At the end of the year the premises which were fitted to comply with the requirements of Regulations 16 and 19 were as follows :—

	Regul'n 16	Regul'n 19
Bakehouses	1	1
Licensed Clubs carrying out catering	1	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1
Manufacturers of Sausages	9	9
Fish and Chip Shops	3	4
Grocers Shops	39	44
Greengrocers	3	3
Sugar Confectioners Shops	7	7
Flour Confectioners Shops	2	3
Dispensing Chemists	2	2
Butchers Shops	9	10

During 1968, 97 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food and 251 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls, including 48 shops registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

During the year, action continued to be taken to secure compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to impress upon all food traders and their staffs the vital importance of strict attention to cleanliness and hygienic practices in all aspects of the preparation and handling of food. The majority of shops in this district are combined shop and house premises of restricted size, where the hygienic storage and display of a wide variety of food and other goods give rise to problems. A few shops in the town have been modernised in recent years to provide more hygienic conditions and better facilities for the shoppers, but the majority of shops in the central area are still in old premises which were converted from other uses many years ago. A plan exists for the redevelopment of the central area of the town to provide a number of new shops, but, unfortunately, progress on achieving this objective has not yet been made.

Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations

These Regulations came into operation at the beginning of 1967 and the Council provided a sink, wash hand basin and hot and cold water supply in a building immediately adjacent to the site of the local weekly market and also provided sheets for enclosing those stalls where open food is sold. Subsequently seven market traders were granted certificates of exemption in respect of the requirements of certain of the regulations.

Work was also undertaken to ensure that a variety of vehicles used for retailing open food were provided with water supplies and washing facilities.

Slaughterhouses — Inspection of Meat and other Foods

Regulations regarding Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty came into full effect in the Urban District on the 1st October, 1961, and by that date, the three private slaughterhouses had been repaired and improved to comply with the requirements of the Regulations. The effect of the new Slaughterhouses Act and Regulations is to ensure the lairing, handling and slaughtering of animals in a humane manner and to secure hygienic conditions for the handling of carcasses and offal and for efficient inspection of meat.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations came into operation. The main effect of these Regulations is to place a duty on local authorities to ensure that all animals, slaughtered for human consumption, are inspected and marked before they are moved from the slaughterhouse and to allow local authorities to introduce charges for meat inspection, as a means of recouping the cost of the service. The introduction of the Regulations created no difficulties, as a 100% inspection service had been maintained since the re-opening of local slaughterhouses in 1954, and the services of Chesterfield Corporation Meat Inspectors have always been available during my absence. The Council introduced charges of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig and 6d. per sheep or lamb, and during 1968 charges produced an income of £82 17 3d.

The number of animals passing through the three local slaughterhouses during 1968 again declined, due to restrictions imposed as a result of the foot and mouth disease outbreak and to the difficulties experienced by local butchers in securing the services of part-time slaughtermen to dress the animals they had purchased. Most of the slaughtering continued to be done in small lots on several days of the week and slaughtering was carried out on a total of 113 days. The three slaughterhouses provide facilities for nine butchers, six with shops in the

Urban District and three trading from premises in adjoining Rural Districts. During the year an estimated 1.233 lbs of meat and offals were rejected as unfit for food and for the seventh consecutive year no case of tuberculosis was detected.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations came into operation on the 30th September, 1966, giving local authorities powers to control the hours and times of slaughtering. Consultations took place with the proprietors of the three slaughterhouses and with the butchers who make use of the facilities provided there. Agreed times for slaughtering came into operation on the 1st January, 1967, and provided for almost all slaughtering being done during normal working hours, apart from an extension to 7-45 p.m. of Mondays in the case of one slaughterhouse, this being the day of the local cattle market when the greatest volume of slaughtering takes place. This agreement worked quite satisfactorily and is a distinct improvement over former years when as much as 80% of all meat inspection had to be carried out in the evenings.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	493	—	1	848	—	—
Number inspected	493	—	1	848	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	102	—	—	23	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	20.7	—	—	2.7	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following amount of food, apart from meat arising in local slaughter houses, was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered for disposal at the Council's refuse tip :—

Cooked meat and meat products	9½ lbs.
Canned meats	16 lbs.
Frozen Foods	181 pks.

Milk and Dairies Administration

The sale of non-designated milk is prohibited in this district, by virtue of the Milk (Special Designation) Specified Area (No. 3) Order, 1953, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1954.

With one exception, all milk produced at the Dairy farms in this district is collected by dairy companies for subsequent pasteurisation or sterilisation, prior to retail sale. One dairy farmer bottles some of the milk produced at his farm and retails it locally as untreated milk, the rest of the milk being sold to a dairy company. From this particular farm a total of 8 samples of untreated milk were obtained during the year. One sample gave a positive result to the milk ring test and subsequently a positive result after guinea pig inoculation for detection of *brucella abortus*. In accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations the whole of the milk produced at this farm was diverted for pasteurisation. The infected cow in the herd was detected and sent away for slaughter. Subsequent samples were satisfactory and the order diverting the supply for heat treatment was withdrawn. Regular sampling of this supply of milk has been undertaken for many years and this is the first case of *brucella abortus* occurring.

Three samples of pasteurised milk were obtained from local distributors and were submitted for bacteriological examination; all were satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Derbyshire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Analyst, Mr J. Markland, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., has kindly supplied details of samples taken, as follows :—

37 samples, including 4 Milks, were taken under the above Act in the area of the Bolsover Urban District Council during the year.

Three samples of Iced Lollies contained more than the maximum permitted limit of lead. These were from a local manufacturer and samples of raw materials and of the product in various stages of manufacture were taken. Following proof that the lead was derived from the holding tanks, the manufacturer changed his process.

The remaining samples were classed as satisfactory.

Bacteriological Examination of Samples

There is one small manufacturer of ice cream in this district and during the year nine samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with results as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	4
Provisional Grade 2	-
Provisional Grade 3	1
Provisional Grade 4	4

On seven occasions samples from the inlet and outlet ends of the Public Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination; On five occasions the samples were reported as completely satisfactory, but on the re-

maintaining two occasions the plate counts were in excess of the recommended standard, though no coliform organisms were isolated.

Five samples of water from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board were submitted for examination and all were reported as satisfactory.

Five samples of locally bottled orange juice were all reported as satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this district.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises operating in this district.

Slaughter of Animals Act

At the end of 1968 five persons held licences to slaughter or stun animals in slaughterhouses or knackers yards.

Knackers Yards

Fourteen visits of inspection were paid to the Knackers Yard. This is a rather small business in a very remote part of the district, and it was conducted in a satisfactory manner as its nature and location permit.

In recent years these premises have been enlarged and improved to afford much better facilities for storage of meat, offals and waste products and to allow for sterilisation of diseased meat.

Two buildings in Mill Lane, Bolsover, are licensed for lairage of animals.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The one shop which was licensed under the provisions of the above Act closed down during the year and at the present time there are no licensed premises in the Urban District.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, but no premises in the Urban District have been licensed.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This Act came into operation during 1964; its main effect being to make provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in non-industrial premises and to require these premises to be registered with the local authority or the Factory Inspectorate.

The table below sets out registrations as at the 31st December, 1968.

TABLE (a) — Registrations and general inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general in spection during the year
Offices	-	15	14
Retail shops	-	53	45
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	4	4
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1

TABLE (b) — Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises

76 — these included five reported accidents.

TABLE (c) — Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	700
Retail Shops	182
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	14
Catering establishments open to the public	14
Canteens	10
Fuel storage depots	2
TOTAL	922
Total Males	556
Total Females	366

The vast majority of persons employed in offices are working in a large office complex at the Area Headquarters of the National Coal Board. There are no large retail shops or department stores and the employees in shops are for the most part working in very small businesses. The Council has a programme to re-develop the central area of the district to provide a number of modern shops and a few of the larger businesses are already operating in modernised premises where conditions are usually much better than in the older and smaller shops.

No new premises were registered during the year and three were removed from the list of registered premises following inspections.

The contraventions which were noted and brought to the attention of the occupiers of registered premises included :—

Inadequate lighting to W.C's	4
Inadequate lighting to external yards and passages	2
Insufficient washing facilities	3
Failure to display Abstract	4
Inadequate first-aid boxes	3
Dirty condition of W.C.'s	1
Failure to provide thermometers	1

Good progress was made during the year in correcting contraventions found at registered premises.

Five accidents were reported, in all cases they were of a minor nature and two of the accidents were currently investigated.

Inspections under this Act were again combined with inspections under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations in appropriate cases.

Petroleum Licensing

57 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

In recent years, detailed inspection of all storage installations has been undertaken to secure compliance with the Home Office Model Codes. Underground storage tanks which had been in use for over twenty years have been subjected to pressure tests before renewal of the annual licences.

During 1968 the Town End Garage was demolished and rebuilt providing a new and enlarged installation for storage of petroleum spirit. The storage tanks were pressure tested during the year but the licence was not issued until 1969.

At the end of 1968, 22 licences were in force, covering a maximum storage capacity of 293,268 gallons.

Rodent Control

The Cleansing Foreman has undertaken approved training and carried out regular rodent control work. A second employee on the cleansing staff also undertook approved training several years ago and during 1968 the new Technical Assistant employed in this Department attended a Ministry sponsored course on rodent control. Early in 1968 the then Cleansing Foreman obtained an appointment as Rodent Officer with a Rural District Council in Wiltshire and his replacement attended a course of training with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and now carries out regular rodent control work.

The Council carry out free treatment for rats and mice at domestic premises and provide treatment at business premises on a rechargeable basis. Six business premises, the Knackers Yard and five agricultural properties

were the subject of annual contracts; systematic inspections and treatments have resulted in all these premises being kept under control. Many of the other industrial and agricultural premises in the district have annual contracts with rodent control operators.

The systematic survey of the district for rats and mice was continued throughout the year. Permanent baiting points have been maintained at the refuse tip, sewage disposal works and in certain lengths of public sewer and this method of treatment has been found to be most successful.

Rodent Control Report for Year ended December 31st, 1968

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
Total properties inspected ...	14	709	34	19
Number of treatments carried out				
Rats ...	7	25	7	5
Mice ...	—	5	1	—

The number of treatments carried out shows a marked decrease on the previous year. There was no major infestation and those found and treated were of a minor character. The general public now realise that a free service is offered for rodent control and co-operate wholeheartedly in the task of exterminating rats and mice.

Conversion of Pail Closets, etc

New sewerage schemes serving houses in Whaley, Whaley Common and Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, to-

gether with slum clearance action under Housing Act, powers have drastically reduced the number of pail closets in the Urban District during the past 15 years or so.

The nine remaining houses without water closets are in widely scattered parts of the district, most of them far removed from public sewers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution in this district was commenced on the 1st February, 1959, and the instruments were sited with the co-operation of officers of the Warren Spring Laboratory, now of the Ministry of Technology. One deposit gauge was sited at Hall Farm, Woodhouse Lane, in fairly close proximity to the Bolsover colliery and the carbonising plant of Coalite and Chemical Products Limited, which are the main sources of industrial pollution in the Urban District; the second gauge was sited in Moor Lane to the east of the town centre, to give records of deposited matter in one of the main residential areas. Two lead peroxide instruments were sited in Cundy Road and Moor Lane; the one in Cundy Road being not too far from the sources of industrial pollution and the one in Moor Lane being in a residential area.

The results obtained during the months of 1968 are set out below, together with monthly averages for previous years :—

Deposited Matter

(Total solids, tons per square mile)

1968	Hall Farm Woodhouse Lane	96 Moor Lane
January	11.04	7.41
February	10.09	7.51
March	17.36	7.32
April	13.23	12.93
May	13.53	10.38
June	12.43	8.96
July	17.02	9.52
August	17.26	9.01
September	13.17	8.29
October	15.22	6.20
November	8.20	6.13
December	7.33	7.62

1968 monthly average	12.82	8.44 tons per sq. ml.
1967 monthly average	16.69	7.99 tons per sq. ml.
1966 monthly average	13.51	12.18 tons per sq. ml.
1965 monthly average	12.90	12.00 tons per sq. ml.
1964 monthly average	11.85	13.29 tons per sq. ml.
1963 monthly average	11.44	9.66 tons per sq. ml.
1962 monthly average	17.57	10.09 tons per sq. ml.
1961 monthly average	15.65	9.60 tons per sq. ml.
1960 monthly average	14.35	11.23 tons per sq. ml.
1959 monthly average	15.32	11.96 tons per sq. ml.

Estimation of Sulphur by the Lead Peroxide Method:

(Mg. of SO₃ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO₂) (Louvered cover)

1968	2 Cundy Road	96 Moor Lane
January	1.79	2.90
February	1.17	2.37
March	2.22	1.42
April	1.05	1.51
May	0.82	1.34
June	0.66	1.09
July	0.67	1.01
August	0.54	—
September	0.78	1.29
October	0.94	1.75
November	1.14	1.02
December	1.28	2.09
1968 monthly average	1.09	1.62
1966 monthly average	1.21	1.36
1967 monthly average	1.24	1.80
1965 monthly average	1.38	1.99
1964 monthly average	1.42	1.85
1963 monthly average	1.40	2.05
1962 monthly average	1.61	1.91
1961 monthly average	1.79	1.75
1960 monthly average	1.55	1.58
1959 monthly average	1.62	1.48

The deposit gauge at Hall Farm is sited some 700 yards due east of the carbonising works of the Derby-Coalite Company Limited, and 700 yards north east of Bolsover Colliery; these being the main sources of industrial pollution in this area and where very considerable quantities of coal are carbonised or burned. The monthly average of deposited matter at this site showed a marked reduction to a level lower than any achieved in the previous three years.

The deposit gauge in Moor Lane is in a residential area, about 500 yards east north east of the town centre and approximately 3,000 yards to the south east of the Coalite Works and the Colliery. The monthly average of deposited matter at this site was slightly higher than in the previous year, but still well below the levels for former years.

Apparatus for the measurement of sulphur by the lead peroxide method has been set up in two places in the Urban District; at a site in Cundy Road on the edge of a housing estate some 1,200 yards east of the Bolsover Colliery and 1,330 yards to the east of the Coalite Works; the second site was in the Moor Lane residential area, 500 yards east north east of the town centre and 3,000 yards to the south east of the Coalite Works and Colliery. Monthly averages from the Cundy Road site, which is the one nearer the industrial undertakings, have tended to decline for a number of years and the results for 1968 were easily the best achieved. The monthly averages for the Moor Lane residential area declined when compared with the previous year.

In all cases the levels of deposited matter and sulphur recorded during 1968 were well below the average levels recorded during the previous nine years, since measurements were commenced in 1959. This gradual reduction in atmospheric pollution is welcomed. It has been achieved as a result of greater use of gas and elec-

tricity in most homes and less reliance on coal by householders, and by improved efficiency and greater attention to smoke abatement at the major industrial undertakings. It is hoped that this gradual improvement can be maintained, but it is probable that the results would have been even better had an ambitious smoke control programme been implemented by the Council.

In addition to the deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments established by the Council, Coalite and Chemical Products Limited co-operate in the national survey of smoke and sulphur dioxide. Their instruments are sited at the Coalite Works which is immediately adjacent to Bolsover Colliery and the results of daily measurements of smoke and sulphur are published by the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Ministry of Technology.

Smoke Control Area

There is one smoke control order in operation in the Urban District covering an area of 86 acres and which contained 179 occupied houses at the end of 1968. Further housing development is now taking place in the smoke control area and the number of houses is expected to rise during the next year or two. The smoke control order came into operation in the first instance on the 1st July, 1963, and, after being suspended for almost a year it came back into operation on the 1st September, 1964. No undue difficulties arose during 1968 and no complaints were received from householders of shortage of suitable fuels. Inspections continue to be made in the smoke control area and on 12 occasions offenders were reminded of the requirements of the smoke control order and were asked to co-operate in achieving smokeless conditions.

During 1968, a new Clean Air Act received the Royal Assent but did not come into immediate operation. The Council were informed of its provisions, especially the new powers vested in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning the implementation of smoke control area programmes. In 1962 the Council submit-

ted a programme to the Ministry designed to create a series of smoke control areas, one every second year, with the intention of covering all the Urban District by 1972-1973. The first such area came into operation in 1963 and since that time the Council have been reluctant to implement any further stages of the programme. Undoubtedly, the higher price of solid smokeless fuels, when compared with the cost of coal, and dissatisfaction with the national agreement covering the issue of solid smokeless fuel in lieu of coal to mineworkers, etc., living in smoke control areas, have been the main reasons for the Council's decision. One difficulty experienced in establishing the first smoke control order in this district will not arise again — in all future smoke control areas grant will be payable on converting heating appliances to burn the cheaper solid smokeless fuels, and occupiers will not be required to retain those appliances which were designed to burn only the more expensive open fire fuels. Householders will thus be able to choose, if they so wish, the more efficient closed appliances which give greater warmth and comfort and use a cheaper type of fuel.

Several members of the Council took the opportunity to examine the new Housewarmer appliance which was developed by the National Coal Board to burn a particular grade of raw coal smokelessly. This appliance was being tested in a number of houses in the adjoining Rural District and has since received official approval and been installed in many houses in a smoke control area very close to this district.

I fully appreciate that there are peculiar difficulties associated with introducing domestic smoke control in mining districts, and especially in this area where the concessionary coal agreements are more generous than the national average. The national agreement to supply concessionary smokeless fuel instead of coal is regarded locally with considerable disfavour, particularly in its allowance to retired miners and widows. It should however

be remembered that a large percentage of the local working population is employed in either the mining of or processing of coal, frequently in most unpleasant working conditions exposed to dirt and dust: it is therefore all the more important that the benefits which can result from atmospheric pollution should be made available to those who spend so much of their working days in dirty and unpleasant surroundings. It has been calculated that the advantages to be derived nationally from a reduction in atmospheric pollution would far outweigh the cost — this might not appear so true to a mineworker, retired miner or a widow, who is required to surrender a generous coal allowance for a smaller quantity of smokeless fuels, but we should seriously ask ourselves whether it is right to needlessly expose our families, especially the very young and the very old, to unnecessary dirt and the greater risk of chest complaints which are associated with atmospheric pollution.

Atmospheric pollution pays no regard to district council boundaries and the national policy is to reduce pollution wherever it occurs, and especially in those parts of the country where the level is high. Now, there must be very few of the so called "black area" authorities who are not proceeding with a programme of creating smoke control areas and one must presume that before very much longer this Council and the inhabitants of this district will be called upon to play their part in the national plan to limit pollution of the air we breathe.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967,

The Council have entered into an agreement with two local firms for the removal and destruction of abandoned vehicles and during 1968 this Department was involved in the disposal of seven derelict vehicles. A refuse dump where local residents may deposit unwanted articles, etc for disposal has been created at the Town End Depot.

Public Cleansing Service

During the year under review the Council operated

- (i) an 18 cubic yard Karrier Dual Tip refuse vehicle (purchased in 1960), with a team of five workmen on whole time refuse collection duties.
- (ii) a 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Dual Tip Junior refuse vehicle (purchased in 1963), with a team of five workmen on whole time refuse collection duties.
- (iii) a Fordson Super Major tractor (purchased in 1964), with bulldozer blade, bucket and fork-lift attachments for the levelling and covering of refuse at the tip and for stacking and loading baled waste paper. At the end of 1965 a seven cubic yard covered refuse trailer was purchased for use with this tractor to collect waste paper from shops and other business premises in the District. This equipment can be brought into use on refuse collection work at holiday time or when vehicle breakdown occurs.
- (iv) a 1,000 gallon Karrier Yorkshire gully/cesspool emptier (purchased in 1961), on the emptying of cesspools and pail closets, the daily removal of sludge from the main sewage works, the cleansing of street gullies and the periodic flushing of sewers. Two men are employed on this vehicle.

One workman was employed whole time on the sorting and baling of waste paper and a working foreman carries out pest control measures, operates the free drain rodding service, undertakes vehicle maintenance and assists with all other work at times of sickness or holidays.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Last year's report referred to difficulties which were experienced in recruiting and retaining suitable men for refuse collection work, especially during the autumn and winter of 1967-68. There were many changes in the staff employed and frequently it became necessary to engage temporary workmen to ensure the regular collection service during times of sickness or holidays. For about 15 years the Council had paid a plus rate of 3½d. per hour (originally equal to 10% of wages) to the cleansing employees but the increase in basic rates during those years had reduced the benefit of this plus rate. Quite often the teams were depleted and at such times the men received no extra reward for completing their collection rounds. The Council set up a sub-committee to examine the service with a view to introducing an incentive payment scheme designed to encourage greater productivity and to reduce the reliance on temporary and often unsuitable employees. A scheme was designed to discontinue the 3½d. per hour local plus rate and to cut out the need for temporary labour except in most exceptional circumstances. The savings achieved were designed to provide an incentive payment for the workmen employed on refuse collection and to give a correspondingly greater payment when the collection teams were short handed due to sickness or holidays. The scheme was discussed with representatives of the employees and approved by the Council to operate from the 11th March, 1968.

This incentive payment scheme has enabled the Council to recruit and retain a more suitable type of workman, and during its first full year of operation to the 31st March, 1969, there were only two changes in staff, a temporary workman was required for only ten days in the year, and there was a 25% reduction in the days lost through sickness. In addition, there was a saving of £260 in wages costs compared with the previous year. By the end of the first year of operation productivity had been increased to the level where the teams were then undertaking an experiment whereby only nine men were em-

ployed in the two collection teams instead of the normal compliment of ten employees. This incentive payment scheme would appear to be working quite satisfactorily, it has resulted in a marked increase in productivity, has produced a more contented and settled body of workmen and at the same time has achieved a slight saving in the total wages bill.

The regular and efficient collection and disposal of refuse is a service of vital public health importance. A weekly collection was maintained throughout the district and very few complaints were received. The collection and disposal of refuse is not a pleasant or attractive occupation, especially in a mining area, where the yield and ash content is higher than the average. Local authority workmen are amongst the lowest paid workmen in the country, their basic wage is far, far below the national average wage. The incentive payments earned by this Council's refuse collection teams has certainly raised the earnings of the workmen concerned, but even now they are well below the national average. I should like again to pay tribute to the public cleansing workmen; we are inclined to take their services for granted and it is only on very rare occasions, when something goes wrong, that we notice their existence.

All refuse is now disposed of in a disused portion of the clay pit at the New Byron Brick Company's Works, which is just outside the boundary of the Urban District. The Fordson tractor, which was purchased in 1964, has proved extremely useful on the refuse tip and has resulted in considerable saving of labour. Sludge from the main sewage works is also disposed of by burial with the refuse. In previous years some difficulties have been experienced when parts of the clay hole became waterlogged due to heavy rain or overflowing of the adjacent stream. The last remaining flooded area was tipped over in 1967 and no further difficulties have been experienced since that time.

Waste Paper Salvage

Throughout the whole of the year the sorting and baling of waste paper and cardboard continued to be carried out in temporary premises at Town End Farm and no progress was made on the project of establishing a new Council Depot at this site. A 5h.p. electric baling press was purchased in the summer of 1964 when the temporary premises at Town End Farm were first brought into use. The use of this improved baling equipment has enabled greater sales to be dealt with, while restricting the increase in costs.

During the year under review there were no restrictions on the sale of waste paper and the Board Mills raised the prices paid for paper and cardboard in an attempt to increase the quantity recovered. Sales during the financial year ended 31st March, 1969, amounted to 192 tons 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. and produced an income of £1,837 13 6, the tonnage sold being virtually identical with the previous year and the income received increased by £120 due to the improved prices. To coincide with the introduction of the refuse collection incentive payment scheme, a similar scheme to give those workmen employed on disposal of refuse and the collection and baling of waste paper was introduced from the 1st April, 1968. The improvement in collections was not so readily forthcoming but towards the end of the year, publicity in the form of leaflets, posters, dustbin stickers and book marks were distributed and the sales of waste paper during the early months of 1969 are now in excess of those of the previous year. It is hoped that this improvement can be maintained throughout the year.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council provide a service for emptying cesspools at houses not served by a public sewer. This service has been in existence for many years and a revised programme was introduced by the Council in 1965, provi-

ding for less frequent emptyings in a small number of cases. A number of cesspools were enlarged and in other cases arrangements were made for more frequent emptyings to be carried out on a rechargeable basis should this be found necessary.

Weekly emptyings of the few remaining pail closets is also undertaken by the cesspool emptying vehicle.

For some time this cesspool emptying vehicle and the men working on it have been employed for most of each week on work coming within the province of the Council's Engineer's Department. To avoid complications which might arise as a result of the introduction of incentive payment schemes for the other public cleansing workmen, the vehicle and two workmen were transferred to the Engineer's Department on the 1st April, 1968.

